

January 10, 2011

Re: Response to your inquiry on Canadian interaction with American fleet

Mr. Hogan and Mr. Helvey,

It was nice to meet you in Vancouver, B.C.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. However, asking fishermen to cite specific incidents is not likely to happen. Dispute resolution will not fix the problem of Canadian vessels fishing in the U.S. EEZ.

Aggressive behavior to one may not be aggressive to another. I've been involved in a number of different fisheries and the competitive edge is sometimes defined by aggressiveness. However, aggressiveness from a fellow American trying to make a living and aggressiveness from a foreign vessel is perceived differently.

Overcrowding inevitably causes aggressive behavior. For me, overcrowding is the problem, plain and simple. You must tie together the aggressive behavior and the overcrowding.

When we're on an area of fish and the fleet size is so large that I have to say, "How can we improve or fix this overcrowding issue?", it seems practical that taking the foreigners or 110 Canadian vessels out of the picture would be the obvious solution. Many times, we just leave the area to avoid incidents of aggression, which always costs time and money to relocate.

This fishing regime has not worked for the U.S. fishermen. As of December 31, 2011, the regime is over. Please listen to the position statement of both fishing associations. These are the largest stakeholder groups in this issue and their unified voices should be heard loudly.

Sincerely,

Tim Thomas